
N E W S L E T T E R

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

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GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS

The good news is that House Bill 825, the public library funding bill which establishes a new equalization formula for state aid and a new way to fund public library construction, passed both chambers in the last General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Patton. This legislation, which saw the best advocacy effort ever by public library supporters (almost daily visits to various Members, over 2,000 phone calls, and numerous letters) signals a new era in public library development for Kentucky and would assure substantially equal library services for all citizens. Initially, KDLA requested \$10 million for new State Aid and \$2 million for new public library construction, but HB 825 was introduced with only \$6 million allocated for State Aid.

The bad news is that the budget bill did not include any new funding for State Aid; and the Senate removed the \$6 million from HB 825. This means that there will be no change in State Aid this biennium, but the language for the new funding does set a precedent for this funding strategy. Library supporters will be asking the Governor and their legislators to put significant funding in the next budget bill during the 2002 General Assembly.

The good news is that some new funding was added in the budget bill for public library construction and the language allows for KDLA to help local libraries finance their own construction projects, which will allow more projects to be done with state assistance.

The bad news is that the new funding for public library construction isn't at the requested \$2 million and isn't available until 2002.

The good news is that some libraries in the state did get unsolicited "individual grants" from the legislature in various *Community Development Projects*. These are one-time, lump-sum grants. Those known to date are:

Adair Co P L	\$ 10,000	equipment
Anderson Co P L	\$200,000	construction
Casey Co P L	\$ 10,000	equipment
Clay Co P L	\$ 15,000	renovation
Elliott Co P L	\$ 25,000	personnel
Grant Co P L	\$750,000	construction
Hardin Co P L	\$300,000	construction
Johnson Co P L	\$100,000	renovation
Kenton Co P L	\$ 35,000	talking book lib
Letcher Co P L	\$200,000	construction
Jefferson County	\$100,000	Prospect
Meade Co P L	\$ 50,000	technology
Robertson Co P L	\$175,000	construction
Russell Co P L	\$ 10,000	equipment
Simpson Co P L	\$250,000	construction
Wolfe Co P L	\$175,000	construction

The bad news is that 102 county libraries did not get any additional financial assistance and no one got continued support, as would have happened had HB 825 been funded. However, there is another session in two more years and an obvious momentum of grass-roots support for our libraries. Keep your eyes on the prize and never give up!

-- James A Nelson,
State Librarian and Commissioner

ECONOMIC BOOM

Libraries, on a national scale, are seeing the benefits of a booming economy. Add to that E-rate discounts and major gifts from the Gates Learning Foundation, and the outlook is indeed optimistic. According to *Library Journal's* tenth annual Budget Report, total budgets are up an average of 7.5 percent. Per capita funding, on a national average, has steadily risen to \$28.04 in 2000. Sadly, Kentucky's average per capita income was \$19.26 in 1999, the latest figures available.

Operating subtotals are often locked into place by a library's facility and circumstances, with most of the discretionary budgeting caught in a tug-of-war between materials and salaries. While no one would argue that the materials (books, magazines, newspapers, videos, audio, etc.) are what the library is there for in the first place, all the materials in the world can't be used without staff to keep the library open and running, one hopes, efficiently. Again, national averages are higher than Kentucky's, but do give us a benchmark at which to aim.

POPULATION	MATERIALS	SALARY
Fewer than 10,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 73,000
10,000—24,999	\$ 93,000	\$ 342,000
25,000—49,999	\$ 174,000	\$ 731,000
50,000—99,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 1,120,000
100,000—499,999	\$ 690,000	\$ 2,818,000
500,000 and above	\$3,729,000	\$14,449,000

The explosion in technology and the Internet has also impacted library budgets. The good financial news on this front is that E-rate has provided discounted telecommunications services. More than 8 out of 10 libraries have applied to the Schools and Libraries Corporation (SLC) for these discounts, with savings ranging from an average of nearly \$1,800 for the smallest libraries to more than \$240,000 for the largest ones. Of course there being no free lunch, librarians have paid their dues for this discount with a very time-consuming applica-

tion process. KDLA's Technology Consultant, Terry Manuel, has helped Kentucky public librarians with workshops scattered across the state and individual assistance via telephone as requested.

POPULATION	E-RATE SAVINGS
Fewer than 10,000	\$ 1,736
10,000—24,999	\$ 2,305
25,000—49,999	\$ 6,871
50,000—99,000	\$ 19,561
100,000—499,999	\$ 26,903
500,000 and above	\$239,000

As libraries change they will find themselves in constantly morphing budgets. Dr Glen Holt, St Louis Public Library, reminds us that the key to library spending is shifting from "acquisition" to "access." It is often difficult for those who entered a profession, or agreed to serve on a board of trustees, based on a love of books and reading to re-think what the public library is and provides to their community. Information comes in constantly changing (and one hopes, improving) formats. Today's magazine and newspaper budget may be seen in tomorrow's telephone expenditures.

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Serving Kentucky's Need to Know



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CONFERENCE AWARDS

On April 5-7, the Kentucky Library Trustees Association (KLTA) and the Public Library Section (PLS) of the Kentucky Library Association (KLA) met for their annual combined conference. This year's meeting was held in Lexington and provided librarians and trustees from across the state with numerous opportunities to learn new skills and make new friends.

On Thursday the annual Awards Luncheon was held. This year two new awards were presented by the PLS Chair, Linda Kompanik—one for children's services and another for outreach services. In the business meeting later in the conference the memberships voted to make these two permanent, ongoing awards.

This year's recipient for the *Outstanding Public Library Service Award* went to Carol Baughman, KDLA's Children and Youth Services Consultant. Carol has been providing statewide assistance to Kentucky's librarians for 11 years, helping regional librarians set up children's co-operatives and then empowering them in such areas as collection development, programming, and networking. She has provided leadership in promoting Summer Reading, including conducting SRP planning workshops across the state. She wrote LSTA grants to get funds for several children's services grants—one of the most recent being the regional grant to impact children at risk. She served on Governor Patton's task force investigating Early Childhood Development and helped advise him on the statewide initiative promoted by the Governor and approved by the legislature. She also has in her work history experience as a school librarian, children's librarian, trustee, local Friends officer, Friends of Kentucky Libraries officer, and library director.



Carol Baughman

There were no nominations for either the *Margaret F Willis Outstanding Community Library Service Award* or the *Public Library Intellectual Freedom Award*. The *Outstanding Board of Trustees Award* was presented this time but will return next year.

The new award for children's services was named the *Miss Pickle Award for Outstanding Children's Library Services* for the "stage name" of Wanda Brown of Meade County Public Library. Ms Brown, who received the first award posthumously, died on January 25, 2000, while still an active children's librarian.

The first *Outstanding Bookmobile / Outreach Services Award* went to Michelle Robinson, bookmobile librarian for Grayson County.

The membership voted to rename this award for James (Jim) Harrison, bookmobile librarian for Bell County for nearly 28 years. Mr Harrison died on March 18th.

Next year the library community will have another opportunity to recognize their colleagues. Look for the call for nominations in the early spring and plan to nominate a librarian for the appropriate award.

KLTA awarded KDLA-funded scholarships for PLS to these trustees:

Helen Shryock	Anderson County
Frances Bastien	Barren County
Mark Akers	Bell County
Connie Embry	Butler County
Norma Jo Murley	Cumberland County
Robert Graham	Daviess County
Frances Jones	Grayson County
Elinor Miller	Greenup County
James Gugeler	Jessamine County
Anthony Durso	Kenton County
Ric Frazier	Lawrence County
Opal Stone	Wolfe County

TAX PETITION SUCCESSFUL

Congratulations to Fleming County Public Library for successfully increasing their tax rate from 2.8¢ to 5¢ per \$100. The library and many volunteers were able to gather over 1,400 signatures in only two weeks. They needed 978 to fulfill the legal requirements for increasing by petition. Next on the library's agenda is finding a site for a new library. Way to go, Fleming County!

WIDENING CIRCLES V





The fifth biennial statewide conference for Kentucky's public librarians serving children and young adults, *Widening Circles*, will be held on September 20-22 at Lake Cumberland State Resort Park. There will be three intensive sessions—library programming for infants and toddlers; using the Internet with children, youth, and for professional development; and readers advisory service for school age children. For the first time there will be a pre-conference on beginning storytelling which will be limited to 30 people. Evening activities will include reports and discussions on various projects in Kentucky public libraries, puppetry activities, exhibits, and more. All rooms in the park are currently reserved for this conference. Registration materials will be sent to each library in July.

"A book is the simplest, and cheapest, educator in the world."

-- Luis Ramos

BOOK CHARACTER COSTUMES

Costume Specialists handles book character costume bookings for several publishers. These are provided to libraries for promotional use only. There is usually no rental charge for the costume, but there is a prepaid shipping fee to cover insurance and mailing costs. New costumes that have been added are:

-  The Very Hungry Caterpillar
-  Polacco Dolls
-  George & Martha
-  Lyle, Lyle Crocodile
-  Rotten Ralph
-  Lars the Polar Bear
-  Nate the Great

To request additional information, contact Costume Specialists, 211 N Fifth Street, Columbus, OH 43215 or call 1.800.596.9357.

GIFTS ARE NOT ALWAYS GOOD

Several libraries across the country received gifts of 10,000+ nearly useless books from the Cracker Barrel chain of restaurants. These gifts were the result of Cracker Barrel's Neighborhood Book Drive, in which winners received a trip to the Country Music Association awards plus a donation of books, in their name, to the library of their choice.

The Maricopa County (AZ) library's gift contained 11,000 copies of a 1960s-vintage preschool book, *What Would Happen If*. Cracker Barrel apologized for the disappointing gift, sent them \$1,000, and promised to pay for disposal of the books, which have been sitting on the library's loading dock since their delivery.

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

The following web sites were active at the time of printing and should be of interest to librarians and their customers:

A handy way to create a calendar is to visit a Web page sponsored by Oakland (CA) 2000 Ready to Learn, called *Early Childhood Activity Calendar*. Once at the page, be sure to scroll down beyond all the months listed to Printable Version. These calendars can be downloaded for use by children's librarians, teachers, parents, or caregivers. Find it at: www.oakland2000.com/parents/activities/daily.html.

The American Homeschool Association has useful information about homeschooling and a guide to free resources to use in homeschooling. Find it at: www.home-ed-magazine.com/AHA/aha.html.

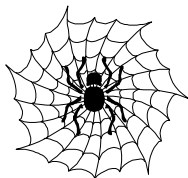
Urban Legends and Folklore provides information that uncovers the rumors about "stories" or folklore circulated through e-mail. It's at urbanlegends.about.com.

The Discovery Channel's site is great for families interested in science and health—and a resource to help answer all kinds of kids' questions. It's at www.discoverychannel.com.

A good site for the world music lover, with reviews, features, and tour information can be found at www.fusemag.com.

For the movie buff there is a British movie magazine that has film reviews and news about movies from around the world. Enjoy it at empireonline.co.uk.

A great way to catch movie trailers now playing or ready to be released very soon is at www.movie-list.com.



PLANNING FOR EVENTS AHEAD

Don't forget the following special events and dates for library related activities:

June 13 Book Repair Workshop @ Laurel County P L

June 14 Book Repair Workshop @ Mercer County P L

June 15 Book Repair Workshop @ Rowan County P L

June 20 Book Repair Workshop @ Dawson Springs Branch, Hopkins County P L

June 22 Book Repair Workshop @ Paducah P L

July 1 Publish, in the local newspaper, the names and addresses of the library board members and the director and either a summary financial statement, which includes the location of supporting documents, or the location of district financial records which may be examined by the public.

July 17 Public Library Trustee Institute @ Lake Barkley State Park

July 18 Public Library Trustee Institute @ Cave City Convention Center

July 20 Public Library Trustee Institute @ KDLA in Frankfort

July 21 Public Library Trustee Institute @ Natural Bridge State Park

NEED TO FIND WATER?

The Goodnight Memorial Library in Simpson County successfully used a water witch (diviner) to find a city water line—after all "scientific" methods had failed!

AUDIOBOOK USAGE

The Audio Publishers Association (APA) sponsored a research study, conducted by National Family Opinion, on the habits and practices of audiobook listeners to collect information about how and where consumers use audiobooks. The statistics show strong growth of not only the audiobook industry, but huge increases in audiobook use in U S households.

Just how many listeners are there? Nineteen million, or 21% of American households have listened to an audiobook in the past year.

Of course this is not surprising to librarians who have seen steadily increasing circulation in their audiobook collections. The next question that automatically arises in the minds of those responsible for collection development is: "What are people listening to?"

48%	Book-based Fiction (30% unabridged)
21%	Nonfiction
15%	Children's
8%	Religious/Inspirational
6%	Other
2%	Language

According to R R Bowker's *Words on Cassette*, approximately 7,000 new audiobooks and spoken-word programs were produced last year. Recently major publishers of audiobooks have added CD formats to the traditional cassette tapes. As car manufacturers increasingly switch from tape to CD in new models, the format needs of commuters will switch as well. This, of course, leads librarians to ask: "Where are people listening?"

44%	in the car
37%	at home
8%	while exercising
4%	at work
4%	at school

--El Nopal Newsletter, January 2000

SNEAK PREVIEWS

An article in the *Chicago Sun-Times* in April featured a new service available to public libraries—sneak previews via e-mail. This service sends snippets of new books to libraries where patrons can "sample" the latest fiction or nonfiction and then request the book if they want to read it.

Two libraries that are currently using this service and their web sites are:

Lyons Public Library at
<<http://www.chapteraday.com/library/lyons/>>

LaGrange Park Library at
<<http://www.lplibrary.org/>>

TEST YOUR FICTION IQ

Library staff can use the Adult Reading Round Table of Illinois' ARRT Genre Fiction List: A Self-Evaluative Bibliography to test their fiction IQ. This guide is available for free to registered Kentucky libraries through NoveList.

Designed as a training tool, the bibliography uses a checklist format to help identify one's strengths and areas for growth in 17 different genres. The guide identifies classic and popular authors in each genre and asks questions about your familiarity with the authors. After completing the checklists, you can determine how best to focus your reading to expand your awareness of authors and genres which are popular with the library's users.

To access the guide, go to the NoveList web site, click the start button, select the adult level, go to "Match a Favorite Author" page, scroll down to the bottom and click on "For Staff Only."

CHOICES MINI-GRANTS

The Choices for the 21st Century Education Project is seeking applications from libraries wishing to host a public policy discussion series.

The Choices series, *Defining Our Role in a Changing World*, is a four-part, scholar-led discussion that brings general audiences to the public library or other community sites to deliberate, neighbor-to-neighbor, important issues of American identity and foreign policy.

A limited number of mini-grants, in the amount of \$400 per program, is available for qualified Choices discussion programs to be held in 2000. These funds will be dispersed to qualified libraries on a first-come, first-served basis. Early application is encouraged. A copy of the 2000 Library Grant Application may be downloaded from the Choices web site at <<http://www.choices.edu/ppgrant00.html>>.

These grants are made available by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Participating libraries will pay a \$200 materials fee and receive 25 participant readers, Discussion Leader's Guide, Organizer's Guide, a poster, and other handouts and materials. The participants will complete the Choices Citizen's Ballot and will have their concerns counted among the 2,500-3,000 Americans expected to participate this year. A report of the Citizen's Ballot will be mailed to all participating libraries in January 2001. Organizational support will be provided by Choices national office staff.

This project is a program of Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. Choices' mission is to strengthen the skills and habits of democratic citizenship and to do so in a way that enhances our understanding of who

we are as a nation and how we relate to the world.

'CROSS THE COMMONWEALTH



All across the Commonwealth public libraries and librarians are doing remarkable things that deserve the recognition of their colleagues. This column attempts to highlight some of these. Requests for additional items are continually solicited.

The **Friends of the Fulton County Public Library** received the Fulton Bank Community Service Award at the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner on April 1. Along with the award came a prize of \$200.

The **Boone County Public Library** has opened its newest facility in Union. This 35,000 square foot building can be viewed at <www.bcpl.org>. The first floor houses the adult book collection, information desk, multimedia materials, study rooms, computer workstations, and plenty of seating space. The second floor features a complete children's library, a large multipurpose meeting room, and a 10-station computer lab. And there are plenty of parking spaces!

The **Scott County Public Library** plans to open its new building to the public in June. Check out the library's web site for pictures of a work in progress at <www.scottpublib.org>.

Recipients of this year's annual Public Library Section (PLS) Scholarships were: **Lisa Carnes**, Grayson County P L; **Melissa Decker**, Grayson County P L; **Deloris Flowers**, Barren County P L; and **Michelle Robinson**, Grayson County P L.

KDLA Construction Grants of \$350,000 were awarded to **Kenton County Public Library** and **Marshall County Public Library**.

LIBRARY TRIVIA CORNER

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS AUTHOR

<i>Mountain Climbing</i>	Andover Hand
<i>Downpour!</i>	Wayne Dwops
<i>Animal Illnesses</i>	Ann Thrax
<i>House Construction</i>	Bill Jerome Home
<i>Cloning</i>	Ima Dubble
<i>Unemployment</i>	Inita Job
<i>Tight Situation</i>	Leah Tard
<i>Why Cars Stop</i>	M. T. Tank
<i>The French Chef</i>	Sue Flay

--adapted from The Unabashed Librarian

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